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IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15-19.

Amend claims 1, 6, 10, and 14 as follows:

Add new claims 20 and 21 as follows:

1. (currently amended): A method of determining usability of a document image, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining if a corner of a document is missing based upon captured image data associated with the document; and

(b) determining if the corner of the document has a fold tear when the corner of the document is determined to be missing.

Al 2. (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes the step of:

(a-1) determining if at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended): A method of processing a document, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) scanning a document to capture image data which is representative of an image of the document;

(b) processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a first count of pixels associated with a corner of the document;

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(c) processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document; and

(d) determining if the corner of the document is missing or has a fold tear based upon the first count of pixels associated with the corner of the document and the second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document.

7. (original): A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

(e) determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon the amount of information found missing from the image of the document as determined in step (d).

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended): An apparatus for determining usability of a document image, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining if a corner of the document is missing based upon captured image data associated with the document; and

means for determining if the corner of the document has a fold tear when the corner of the document is determined to be missing; and

means for determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon at least one of the determination as to whether the corner of the document is missing and the determination as to whether the corner of the document has a tear.

11. (canceled).

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12. (original): An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the means for determining if a corner of the document is missing includes means for determining if at least a predetermined amount of the corner of the document is missing.

13. (canceled)

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14. (currently amended): An apparatus comprising:
means for scanning a document to capture image data which is representative of an image of the document;
means for processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a first count of pixels associated with a corner of the document;
means for processing at least a portion of the captured image data to calculate a second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document; and
means for determining if the corner of the document is missing or has a fold tear based upon the first count of pixels associated with the corner of the document and the second count of pixels associated with the corner of the document; and
means for determining the usability of the captured image data associated with the document based upon the determination as to whether the corner of the document is missing or has a tear.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

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20. (new): A method of processing image data which is representative of an image of a document to determine usability of the document image, the method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) determining if a corner of the document is missing based upon a comparison of at least a portion of the image data with a first predetermined threshold;
 - (b) when the corner of the document is determined to be missing, determining if the corner of the document is the result of a tear based upon a comparison of at least a portion of the image data with a second predetermined threshold; and
 - (c) when the missing corner is determined to be the result of a tear, determining again if the corner of the document is missing based upon a comparison of at least a portion of the image data with a third predetermined threshold which is different from the first predetermined threshold.

21. (new): A computerized method of processing image data which is representative of an image of a document to determine usability of the document image, the computerized method comprising the steps of:

- (a) processing the image data to determine if a missing corner of the document in the document image is the result of a tear in the document; and
 - (b) concluding that the missing corner of the document in the document image is the result of a fold in the document when the missing corner is unable to be determined to be the result of a tear in the document.
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